

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/901,414 | HIDA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Ting Zhou | Art Unit 2173 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 19 July 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19, 44 and 45.
3. The drawings filed on 19 July 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

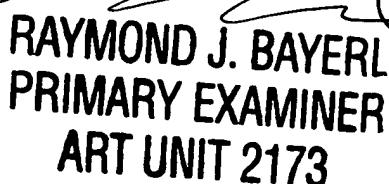
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____


RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark Haynes (Reg. No. 30846) on 11 November 2004.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 20-43 and 46-48 without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-19 and 44-45 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention teaches using obtained node-link data defining a structure to present a sequence of representations of the node-link structure on the display. Each independent claim identifies the distinct feature of "the bounded node features of each representations including a subset of more spaced node features, the regions around the positions of the more spaced node features determining a second convex hull for the representation, each representation's second convex

hull enclosing a sufficient portion of the representation's total area to serve as a focus on the nodes within the second convex hull, and enclosing a region in which bounded node features have nearest node spacings along an axis perpendicular on the display to the horizon, that are in general perceptibly greater than in a region enclosed by the first convex hull but outside the second convex hull" and "lower level node features that share a parent node feature having centers of area positioned on the display in order approximately along a line generally parallel with the horizon with sufficiently similar spacings along the axis perpendicular to the horizon from the region around the parent node feature and with sufficiently similar spacings in a dimension generally parallel to the horizon from adjacent node features along the line that the lower level node features sharing the parent node feature are perceptible as a group of related node features". The Examiner's Amendment cancels the claims that fail to recite the distinct features mentioned above in its limitations, namely claims 20-43 and 46-48. The closest prior art, Lamping et al. (U.S. Patent 5,619,632) teaches displaying a sequence of representations of node-link structures with the last representation in the sequence being perceptible as a changed continuation of the first. The prior art fails to teach the bounded node features of each representations including a subset of more spaced node features, the regions around the positions of the more spaced node features determining a second convex hull for the representation, each representation's second convex hull enclosing a sufficient portion of the representation's total area to serve as a focus on the nodes within the second convex hull, and enclosing a region in which bounded node features have nearest node spacings along an axis perpendicular on the display to the horizon, that are in general perceptibly greater than in a region enclosed by the first convex hull but outside the second convex hull; and lower level node features that share a parent

Art Unit: 2173

node feature having centers of area positioned on the display in order approximately along a line generally parallel with the horizon with sufficiently similar spacings along the axis perpendicular to the horizon from the region around the parent node feature and with sufficiently similar spacings in a dimension generally parallel to the horizon from adjacent node features along the line that the lower level node features sharing the parent node feature are perceptible as a group of related node features. Lamping et al. (U.S. Patent 5,619,632) thus fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-4058.

Art Unit: 2173

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

12 November 2004



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173